

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-28, and 33 are pending in this Application.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 15, 24-28, and 33 are currently amended. Applicants submit that support for the claim amendments and the newly added claims can be found throughout the specification and the drawings.

Claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-28, and 33 remain pending in the Application after entry of this Amendment. No new matter has been entered.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-12, 24, 26, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111911 to Kennedy et al. (hereinafter “Kennedy”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,446,093 to Tabuchi (hereinafter “Tabuchi”), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,518 to Karaev et al. (hereinafter “Karaev”). Claims 8, 9, 13-17, 19-23, 25, 28, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy, in view of Tabuchi, in view of Karaev, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,250,481 to Heddaya et al. (hereinafter “Heddaya”).

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating patentably distinct function limitations or features in the Application. While Applicants maintain that the combination of Kennedy, Tabuchi, Karaev, and Heddaya fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation recited in the pending claims and reserve the right to pursue such subject matter in continuing applications, in order to expedite prosecution of this Application, Applicants have amended the independent claims as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

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